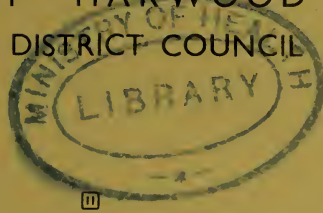


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GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector

11

FOR THE YEAR
1948

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

on the

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

For the Year — 1948.

J. K. CUMMING,

Medical Officer of Health.

G. WALMSLEY,

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1948-9.

Chairman :

Councillor W. RUTTER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor H. DOSWELL.

Committee :

Councillors R. P. Belben, C. Hargreaves, G. A. Monckman,
C. E. Normington, F. J. Neale, F. Ormerod, T. H. Seed, A. M.
Sager, S. Whiteside, E. Whalley.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Administrative Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :

J. K. CUMMING, M.B., Ch.B.

Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5 Division) :

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

G. WALMSLEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed 26/4/48).

Health Visitor (Lancs. County Council) :

Nurse GILBERT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss J. TAYLOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Some of the services administered by the Council in the past have now been taken over by the County Council, and whilst regretting the loss of well administered functions carried out in the past, we look to the future administration with the hope that a greater benefit may be given to all.

No unusual cases of sickness were noted during the year and it is very pleasing to note that no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

There were no maternal deaths during the year, the birth rate of 17.5 per thousand shows a decrease of 1.0 on 1947, the rate for England and Wales for 1948 being 17.9.

The death rate from Cancer is 1.85 per thousand, an increase of 0.71 as compared with 1947. The death rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system shows a decrease of 0.11, being 0.27 as compared with 0.38 for the previous year.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support during the year. My thanks are also expressed to the Health Department staff and other officials of the Council for their help and assistance at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. K. CUMMING,

Medical Officer of Health.

23rd May, 1949.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL.

Area in acres	2,868
Number of inhabited houses—1931 Census	3,573
Number of inhabited houses—At end of 1948	3,746
Rateable value	£62,811
Sum represented by a penny rate	£241
Population—1931 Census	12,876
Population—1948 Estimate	10,810

The principal industries are cotton weaving, and light engineering trades, etc.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	98	...	88	...	186
Illegitimate	2	...	2	...	4
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total	100	...	90	...	190
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1948 **17.5**

Still Births.

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	2	...	2	...	4
Illegitimate	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total	2	...	2	...	4
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births **20**

Deaths.

	Males		Females		Total
Deaths	71	...	87	...	158
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total	71	...	87	...	158
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population **14.6**

Infantile Mortality.

Infants under the age of one year.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	Nil.	1	1
Total deaths	4	3	7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory work for the district is carried out at the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary and good co-operation has been maintained at all times.

Tuberculosis sputum examinations are carried out by the Lancashire County Council, the tuberculosis dispensary being situated at Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious disease cases.—All infectious disease patients were conveyed by arrangements with infectious disease hospitals in neighbouring authorities, chiefly Bull Hill, Hospital Darwen.

Non infectious cases.—One ambulance and one sitting case car was provided by the Urban District Council and the two ambulance drivers carried out their work in a conscientious and courteous manner. During the latter part of the year the service was operated on an agency basis for the Lancashire County Council and an efficient service was provided at all times.

Tuberculosis.

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

Thirteen new cases were added to the register and nine cases were removed from the register during the year.

The following table show the age group incidence of new cases, and deaths during 1948.

AGES.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Non-				Non-	
	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1—5	—	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
5—10	—	—	...	1	...	—	...	—
10—15	—	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
15—25	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	—
25—35	—	—	...	1	...	—	...	—
35—45	—	2	...	1	...	—	...	—
45—55	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
55—65	1	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
Over 65	—	1	...	1	...	—	...	—
Totals	2	6	...	0	5	1	2	0
Total	8	...	5	...	3	...	0	...

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number and nature of infectious diseases notified :—

Disease	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	—
Measles	84	—
Whooping Cough	67	—
Chicken-pox	1	—
Mumps	48	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
Pneumonia	6	3
Tuberculosis	15	3
	231	6

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

The diphtheria immunisation clinic was well attended and many children were immunised by private practitioners. The immunisation administration was taken over by the Divisional Health Authority from the 5th July, 1948, and all the records for the year are now retained by the central authority.

Home Help.

A home help service was in operation up to July, 1948, and gave every satisfaction. The service has now been taken over by the Divisional Health Committee and is administered from their Blackburn Office.

Scabies Clinic.

A clinic is in operation at the Fire Station Yard and is used when occasion arises. During 1948 twenty-two cases were treated.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A clinic is held at the Mercer Hall, the duties being under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Day Nurseries.

The day nursery at "Northlands," Park Lane, was well attended during the year. Owing to the heavy demand for accommodation a new day nursery was constructed in Queen Street and it is hoped that this nursery will be opened early in 1949.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board, the source of supply being upland surface. The water is filtered and chloramine treated and has been entirely satisfactory. Frequent sampling was carried out during the year for bacteriological and plumbo-solvent examination. The results were all satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

The prevention of pollution is under the control of the County Council and a comprehensive report is under consideration regarding the pollution throughout the Hyndburn Valley.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new housing site at Waverledge has meant the extension of the sewers, and proposals for a relief sewer to the south of the town are at present under consideration.

Schools.

The schools have been fairly well maintained and no closure has been necessary during the year by reason of epidemics of infectious disease.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public baths in the district.

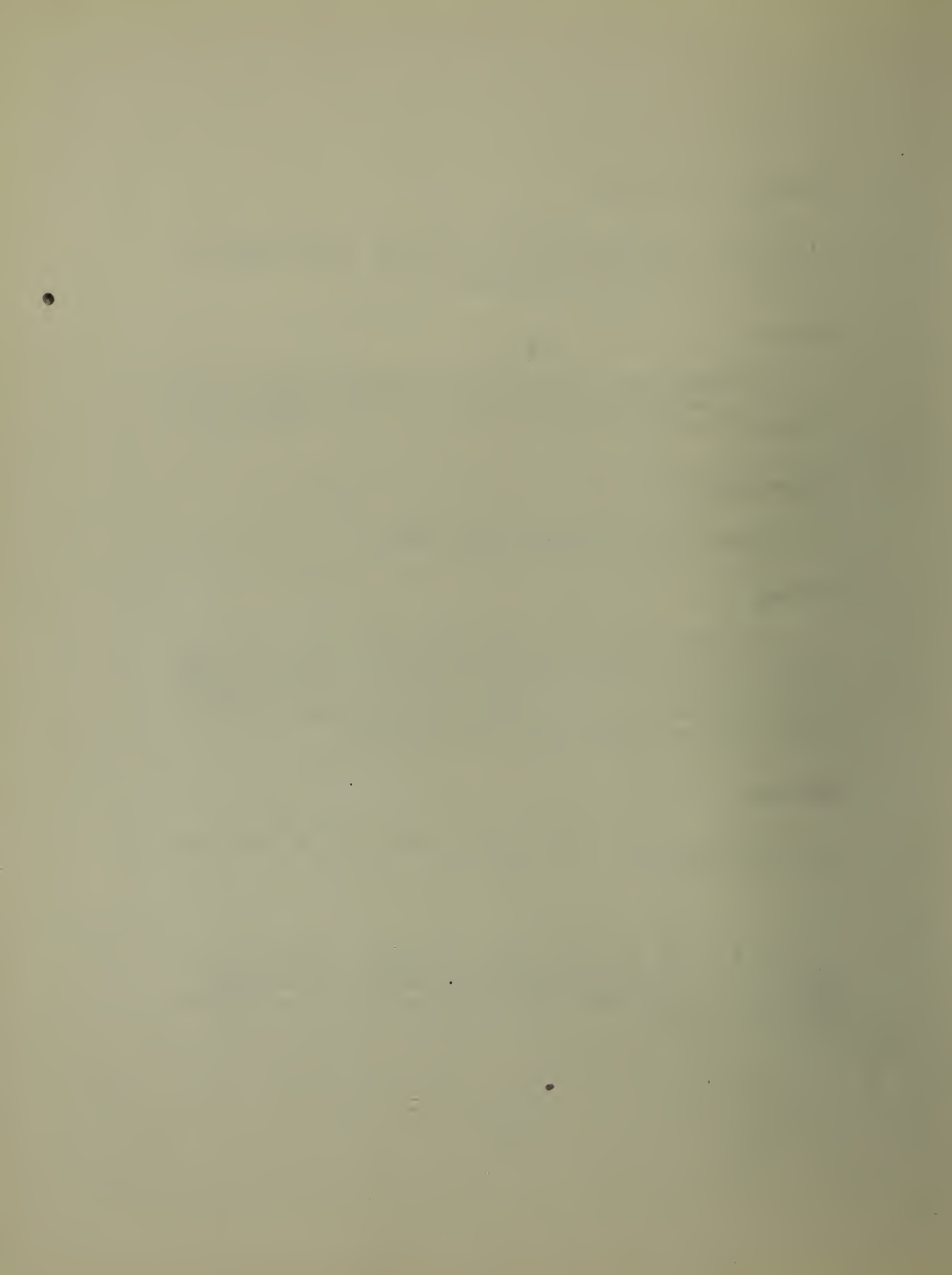
Housing.

The construction of new houses proceeded fairly well during the year, and twenty-two families were rehoused on the Waverledge and Greenhill estates. The problem of repairs to existing dwellings is very acute due to the shortage of labour and the priority given by local builders to the construction of new dwellings.

Mortuary.

Has been used as occasion requires, and during the year seven cases were admitted.

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar General, of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Great Harwood residents. This information does not include non-civilian deaths.



CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	1	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polioencephalitis	0	0	0
Acute infective encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of buccal cavity, and oesophagus (M.), uterus (F.)	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of breast	0	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	4	10	14
Diabetes	0	1	1
Intra-cranial vesicular lesions	7	10	17
Heart disease	30	29	59
Other diseases of circulatory system	0	1	1
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Pneumonia	3	0	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	0	2
Diarrhoea under two years	1	0	1
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other digestive diseases	2	0	2
Nephritis	0	3	3
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	0	0
Premature birth	2	2	4
Congenital malformation, birth, injuries, etc.	1	2	3
Suicide	0	2	2
Road Traffic accidents	1	0	1
Other violent causes	0	3	3
All other causes	9	15	24
Measles	0	0	0
Totals	71	87	158

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report for the year 1948. During the early part of the year a great deal of re-organisation took place to ease the large amount of administrative work, and this step resulted in a more efficient working of the Department. A standard was adopted for ice-cream premises and new records of factories, food premises and farms, etc., were compiled. New sampling equipment was acquired to enable sampling duties to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Committee and vendors of ice-cream and milk.

The problem of the unfit house becomes more complex as all available building labour is engaged on new housing schemes. Hundreds of houses in the district are in need of repair or reconditioning, but whilst the emphasis to-day is on the building of new houses, it is apparent that the repair problem will not be solved for some considerable time.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and full support at all times. I am also grateful to the Officials and staff for their assistance, and cordial relationship during the year has been very marked. The outdoor staff of the Department have rendered useful service and have performed their many onerous duties in a loyal and conscientious manner.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Housing Accommodation—Interviews	26
Housing Accommodation—Visits	24
Interviews—Owners. etc.	65
Public Health Act.	
Inspections	105
Re-visits	145
Overcrowding	2
Verminous Premises	8
General.	
Accumulations	22
Drainage	94
Defective Bins	16
Factories	26
Public conveniences	10
Rats and Mice	12
Refuse collection	4
Refuse Disposal—Tip	20
Refuse Disposal—Sundry	36
Salvage	11
Schools	6
Shops	34
Smoke observations	—
Stables	2
Theatres, etc.	2
Miscellaneous	58
Infectious Disease.	
Inquiries	8
Disinfections	3
Food Premises.	
Bakehouses	18
Butchers	1
Dairies	11
Farms	18
Fried Fish	2
Fruiterers	4
Ice Cream	19
Slaughterhouse	70
Restaurants	8
Unsound Food	10

SAMPLING.

Milk—Undesignated	11
Milk—Designated	5
Milk—Tubercule Bacilli	5

NOTICES.

	Served	Complied With
Informal	56	43
Statutory	67	30
To other Departments	—	30

Water Supply.

Raw Water Samples.

Bacteriological examinations	4	...	Satisfactory
Chemical analyses	3	...	Satisfactory

Treated Water Samples.

Bacteriological examinations	7	...	Satisfactory
Chemical analyses	2	...	Satisfactory

All the water is filtered and Chloramine treated. No extensions were carried out to the mains during the year.

Smoke abatement.

It was not found necessary to take any smoke observations during the year. Two informal notices were served regarding minor offences, the results being satisfactory.

Shops.

The approximate number of shops in the district is 270. Periodical visits and inspections have been carried out when necessary, although it has not been possible to inspect all the premises due to pressure of other work. Conditions, however, appear to be fairly satisfactory as many of the premises are combined shops and dwelling houses.

MEAT AND FOOD SUPERVISION.

Milk and Dairies.

Number of farms	19
Ungraded producers	11
Accredited producers	6
"T.T." producers	2

Licences (Granted by the Council).

"T.T." bottling	1
"T.T." retailing	6
Pasteurising establishment	1
Retailers (pasteurised milk)	2

SAMPLING—MILK.

Grade of Milk	Methylene Blue test		Phosphatase	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
"T.T."	1	—	—	—
Accredited	2	2	—	—
Non-designated	8	2	—	—
Pasteurised	23	—	24	—
	—	—	—	—
	34	4	24	—
	—	—	—	—

Eight samples of milk were taken for biological (tuberculosis) test and were found to be satisfactory.

Eighty visits were made to dairy premises and farms and conditions were found to be satisfactory. The designated farms were found to be maintained fairly well and the cleanliness was satisfactory. With the advent of the new Milk and Dairies legislation it is apparent that more cowkeepers will endeavour to obtain "attested" herds for the supplying of "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

The general public do not appear to appreciate the efforts made to ensure a clean milk supply as many householders negative this work by allowing loose milk to be kept in jugs, jars, and similar vessels on window sills, doorsteps, etc., the milk standing for many hours and liable to pollution by dust, and animals. The shortage of bottles cannot be the main cause of this action and the extensive sale of loose milk is to be deprecated.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

The Lancashire County Council sampling officers took the following samples during the year, in addition to twenty-five samples of milk.

2 Glycerine and Borax.	1 Boric Ointment.
4 Cooking Fat.	2 Beef Sausages.
1 Oatmeal.	2 Cheese.
1 Syrup.	1 Custard Powder.
1 Meat Canned.	3 Flour.
1 Blanc Mange Powder.	1 Flour.
2 Cod Liver Oil.	1 Meat Paste.
2 Liquid Paraffin.	1 Corn Flour.
	1 Boracic Ointment.

One sample of beef sausages was found to be deficient of 30 per cent. of the minimum percentage of meat. The vendor was prosecuted and fined £2 and three guineas costs. The other sample of beef sausages was found to be deficient of 31 per cent. of the minimum percentage of meat and the vendor was fined £2 and three guineas costs.

All the remaining samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine.

Meat Inspection.

The slaughter of pigs is carried out at a private slaughterhouse and the following table presents a report of the activities during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	PIGS
Number killed	1,325
Number inspected	1,325
All diseases except Tuberculosis.	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.6%
Carcases of which some parts or organ was condemned	60
Tuberculosis only.	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	226
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	17%

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS.

Number of hot mix manufacturers	5
Number of cold mix manufacturers	3
Number of vendors (sale only)	10
Number of hawkers	1

A standard for ice cream premises was adopted by the Health Committee, to bring uniformity throughout the District, and it was found necessary to revoke a few licences due to unsuitability of premises. Excellent co-operation has been maintained between the Health Department and ice cream traders and necessary improvements are being effected to many premises.

Unsound Food.

In addition to unsound meat at the slaughterhouse the following foodstuffs were condemned and removed for destruction.

Wet Fish	Seven Boxes
Vegetables	One Crate

Tinned Goods.

Peas, etc.	12
Fruit	17
Milk	26
Meat Products	63
Jam	16

Vermin Control.

Rats and Mice.—There appears to be very little infestation in the district, of major proportions, due to the excellent service rendered by the part time rodent operator. The work has been carried out very thoroughly and conscientiously with the result that the sewers are singularly free from heavy infestation and few complaints have been received from private premises. The amount of work is tabulated below in addition to the maintenance treatments of the sewers.

No. of jobs carried out	Reservoir	Major	Minor
Third Party	Nil	...	40
Local Authority	Nil	...	11

Other Vermin.

Four houses were treated with liquid insecticide for "bug infestations," and there appears to be no high incidence of bug infestation in the district. Many complaints of cockroach infestations were received but in the main, many tenants will not trouble to avail themselves of the free distribution of powder insecticides which are excellent for the eradication of crickets, cockroaches and similar pests.

The Council tip has remained free from rats, and no cockroach or cricket infestations were noted during the year.

Sanitary Accommodations.

Thirty-eight waste water closets were converted during the year, the Council making a grant of £6 towards each conversion. Pail closets are emptied weekly, and the number of various closets in the district are as follows.

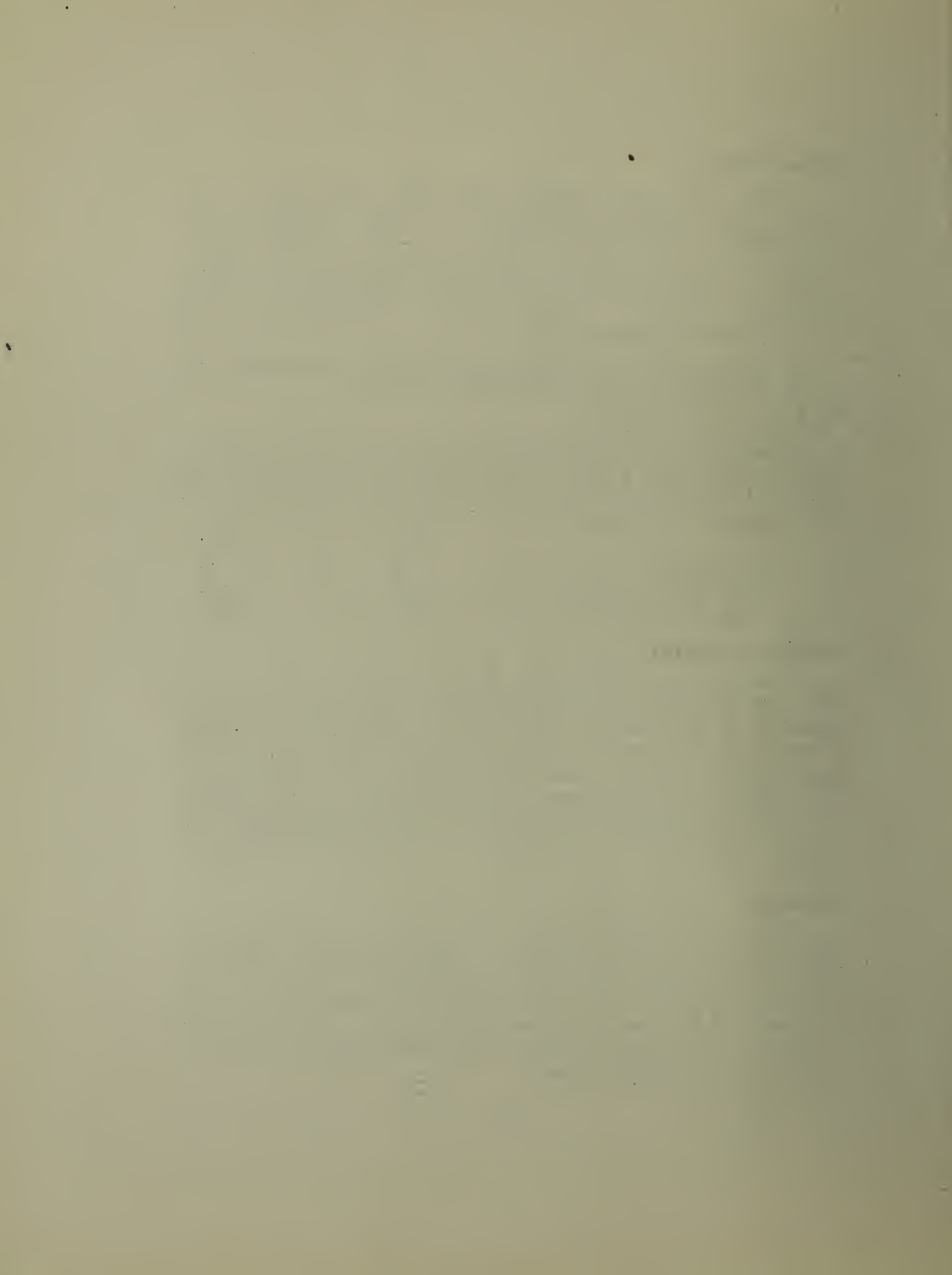
	1947		1948
Pail Closets	36	34
Fresh Water Closets	1,356	1,434
Waste Water Closets	2,329	2,290

Public Conveniences.

Four public conveniences are cleansed daily, but it is evident that certain people do not appreciate the work and maintenance required to keep the conveniences in a proper state. Sanitary fittings have been broken, cistern rendered inactive, pipes broken and removed from the walls, and other items of wilful damage have been done and the destruction still continues. The provision of modern and hygienic conveniences is entirely negated by the wanton destruction of what must be the action of irresponsible youths.

Housing.

There is very little gross overcrowding in the district, but are many houses under-tenanted by single old people. There is a demand for compact, old persons bungalows or dwellings, and the provision of such dwellings for older people should assist in the re-housing of families, who either require more room or are living in lodgings. The following table gives particulars of action taken regarding unfit dwelling houses.



Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1.—(a)	Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	213
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	437
2.—(a)	Number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
3.—(a)	Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(b)	Number of houses, excluding 3a above, found not in all respects fit for human habitation	96
	Number of houses rendered fit by informal action ...	43

STATUTORY POWERS—SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 HOUSING ACT.

A.—(1)	Number of houses in which notices were served requiring repairs	67
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after after service of Formal Notice by :—	
	Owners	30
	Default	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

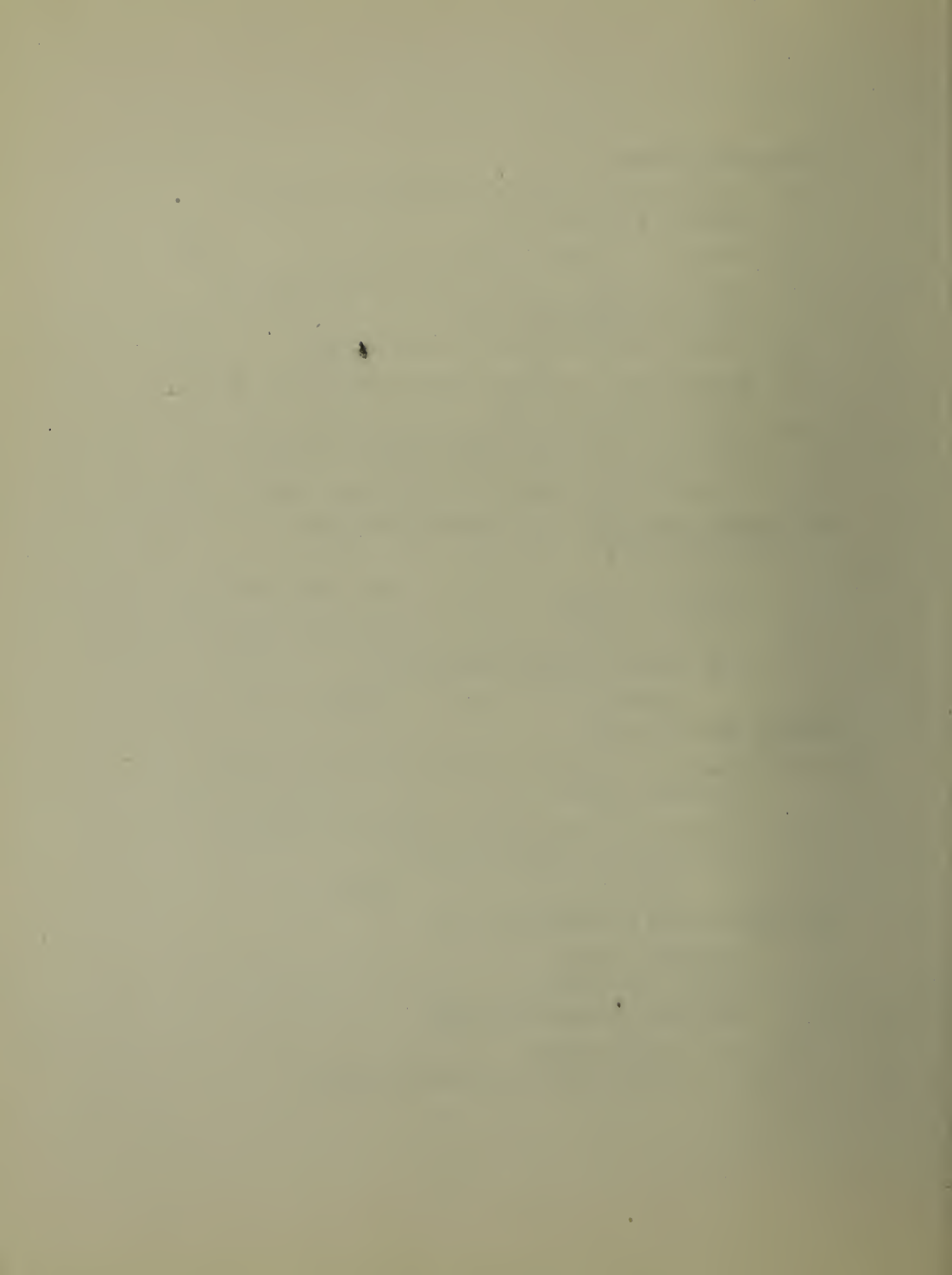
B.—(1)	Number of houses in which notices were served requiring repairs	10
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were rendered after service of Formal Notice by :—	
	Owners	8
	Default	—

SECTIONS 11 and 13 HOUSING ACT.

C.	Demolition Orders	—
	Houses Demolished	—

D. SECTION 12 HOUSING ACT.

Closing Orders	—
Closing Orders rendered in-operative	—



Factories.

The number of factories on the register consists of 84 with mechanical power and 15 non-mechanical power. A small number of the larger factories have latrine type conveniences installed and it is hoped to have these converted shortly.

Forty-four inspections were made mainly with regard to the sanitary accommodation and, seven cases in which defects were found were remedied by informal action.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

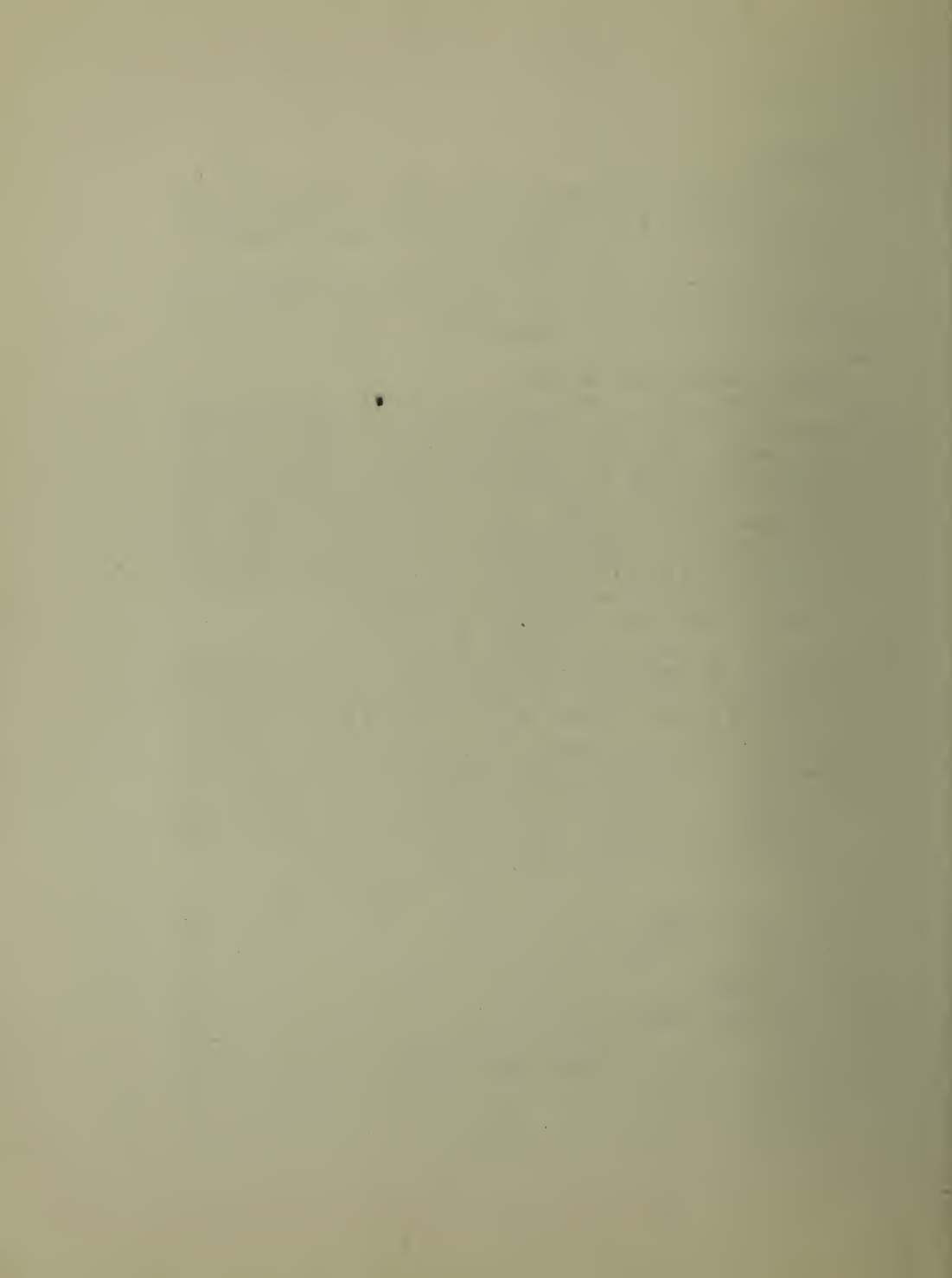
The Cleansing service was well maintained during the year and only slight delays were experienced due to bad weather conditions or transport difficulties. Street cleansing was fully maintained although re-surfacing of many front and back streets is urgently required to minimise the work of weeding, such work being laborious and only partially successful on cobbled streets. The manual method of gully emptying leaves much to be desired and an effort will be made in the future to ascertain if this work cannot be carried out by mechanical means by contract or hire of a suitable machine from a neighbouring authority.

There are now only 30 ashpits in the district and it is hoped these will be discontinued in the near future. The controlled tip at Hyndburn Brook gave very little trouble and a survey will be carried out to enable the best use to be made of the available land.

The collection and sale of salvage continues to give satisfaction and the income from waste paper shows an increase of £33 on last year's figures. There is no sale for bottles and jars, etc., and from a public health point of view this is gratifying as there always appeared to be a doubt as to the ultimate use of reclaimed bottles.

The salvage returns for the year are as follows :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£
Waste Paper	70	18	2	443
Kitchen Waste	—	—	—	52
Rags	—	—	—	10
Bottles	—	—	—	12
Scrap Metal	—	—	—	20
Total value of salvage				<u>£537</u>



The collection of kitchen waste is undertaken by a private pig-keeper and although some complaints were received regarding communal bins an effort has been made to minimise any further nuisance by a more regular collection.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Disrepair.

Roofs repaired	24
Walls and chimneys repaired	35
Plaster, defective	22
Windows repaired	20
Fireplaces repaired	5
Stairs repaired	4
Handrails provided	2
Doors repaired	18
Floors repaired or relaid	2
Yards and passages cleansed	24
Outbuildings repaired	10
Food Store altered	1
Washing accommodation provided	3
Lighting provided	4
Ventilation improved	2

Dampness.

Rising	4
Penetrating	18
Sundry defects	29

Sanitary Defects.

Sewers cleansed	26
Drains cleared	201
Drains repaired	41
Drains reconstructed	30

W.W.C. repaired	15
W.W.C. cleared	402
W.C. repaired	16
W.C. cleared	25
New Drainage provided	8
Eaves gutters repaired	8
Rain water pipes repaired	16
Sink Waste pipes repaired	3
Soil pipes repaired	4
Accumulations	29
Ashpits abolished	20
Drains tested	46
Nuisance from animals	6
Water supply	3
Water under floor	7
Articles cleansed	16

